Accident involving Hyderabad -Narasapur Express in Guntur, A.P.

39. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

Will the Ministers of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of persons killed and those injured in the recent accident involving Hyderabad-Narasapur Express train near Pondagula station in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what was the cause of the accident;

(c) what is the amount of financial assistance given by Government to families of the accident victims and to those who suffered injuries; whether it is a fact that there was considerable delay in providing assistance at the accident site;

(d) what action Government have taken on the inquiry report, if any; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure safety of passengers in journeys by trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) In the accident involving Hyderabad-Narasapur Express at Ponagula station on 19-10-91, 11 persons lost their lives and 119 sustained injuries.

(b) The cause is under investigation by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle.

(c) A sum of Rs. 2.76 lakhs has been paid as *ex-gratia* relief to the injured and to the next of kin of the deceased. There was no delay in providing medical assistance at the accident site.

(d) The Commissioner of Railway Safety/South Central Circle is conducting the statutory inquiry and his report is awaited.

(e) An intensive drive has been launched to counsel drivers and train passing staff by contacting them individually.

Intensive foot-plate inspections at night on Mail/Express and goods trains at the level of Headquarter and Divisional officers are continued to monitor the working of the drivers and train passing staff.

Spurt in Criminal Activities in Delhi

40. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the spate of murders, that have taken place in the Capital, this year, with Old people as prime targets, has enhanced security consciousness in a number of neighbourhoods coupled with the feeling that the police are unable to combat the menace of murder of innocent old people;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to beef up security of various residential areas in the capital where large number of old people are residing;

(c) whether there have been alarming increase in incidents of daylight murders, abductions, dacoities, chain snatching and violence also; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and the effective measures, apart from proper training and equipment of Police are being taken to ensure safety and security of the citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.